

Claims

1. Method for generation of a charge image on an intermediate carrier (30) of an electrophotographic printer or copier,
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in which a character generator (34) with a multiplicity of light sources (36) arranged in at least one row is used,

10 in which the at least one light source row is imaged onto the intermediate carrier (30) as an exposure line (56) and the intermediate carrier (30) can be moved essentially transverse to the exposure line relative to the character generator and

15 in which the temporal beginning of the illumination phases of individual light sources or of groups (36) of light sources is selected such that deviations of the exposure line (56) from a target line (58) are minimized.
2. Method according to claim 1, in which the light source row is sub-divided into groups of light sources (36), whereby the illumination phases of all
20 light sources within a group (36) are initiated via a common activation.
3. Method according to claim 2, in which a separate functional unit (38) for controlling the light sources is provided for each light source group (36).
- 25 4. Method according to claim 3, in which the light sources of each group (36) are activated by a control unit (46) individual to the functional group (38).
- 30 5. Method according to claim 3 or 4, in which the functional units (38) are connected with a central control unit (40) and possess an address via which they can be activated in a targeted manner.

6. Method according to claim 4 and 5, in which the control unit (46) of each functional unit (38) is controlled by the central control unit (40) in order to initiate the illumination phase of the associated light source group (36).
- 5 7. Method according to any of the claims 3 through 6, in which the functional units (38) are arranged in a row, receive data and/or a clock signal via an input interface (48) and, in the event that it is not the last functional unit of the row, forward these data and/or this signal to the following functional unit (38) in the row via an output interface (50).
- 10 8. Method according to claim 7, in which a system clock in which the clock signal is reproduced lies between the receipt and the forwarding of the data and/or of the clock signal.
- 15 9. Method according to any of the claims 3 through 8, in which data are stored in a volatile memory (44) individual to the functional unit (38).
10. Method according to claim 9, in which the data comprise the print data for the segments of a plurality of lines to be printed, which segments correspond to the light source group (36).
- 20 11. Method according to claim 9 or 10, in which the data comprise a correction parameter for each light source of the group (36), which correction parameter represents its individual luminosity.
- 25 12. Device for generation of a charge image on an intermediate carrier (30) of an electrophotographic printer or copier,
with a character generator (34) that has a plurality of light sources arranged in at least one row,
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in which the at least one light source row is imaged as an exposure line (56) onto the intermediate carrier (30) and the intermediate carrier (30) can be moved essentially transverse to the exposure line (56) relative to the character generator (34) and

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in which the temporal beginning of the illumination phases of individual light sources or of groups (36) of light sources can be selected such that deviations of the exposure line (56) from a target line (58) are minimized,

- 10 13. Device according to claim 12, in which the light source row is sub-divided into groups of light sources (36), whereby the illumination phases of all light sources within a group (36) are initiated via a common activation.
- 15 14. Device according to claim 13, in which a separate functional unit (38) for controlling the light sources is provided for each light source group (36).
15. Device according to claim 14, in which the light sources of each group (36) are activated by a control unit (46) individual to the functional unit (38).
- 20 16. Device according to claim 14 or 15, in which the functional units (38) are connected with a central control unit (40) and possess an address via which they can be activated in a targeted manner.
- 25 17. Device according to claim 15 to 16, in which the control unit (46) of each functional unit (38) can be controlled by the central control unit (40) in order to initiate the illumination phase of the associated light source group (36).
- 30 18. Device according to any of the claims 14 through 17, in which the functional units (38) are operatively arranged in a row, whereby the functional units (38) have an input interface (48) for receipt of data and/or a

clock signal, and whereby the functional units (38), with the exception of the last functional unit (38) in the row, have an output interface (50) for forwarding of the data and/or the clock signal to the following functional unit (38) in the row.

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19. Device according to any of claims 14 through 18, in which the functional units (38) have a volatile memory (44).